Between the Lines

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THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
CONDENSED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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Hands Off, Protestants

The Roman Catholics are demanding the withdrawal of Protestant missionaries from Latin America. A widespread campaign is being started to create sentiment in official circles to bring pressure against expanding Protestantism in South and Central America. *At the same time that Catholic leaders are aiding in the defense of religious liberty in the world, they are demanding religious totalitarianism in over half of the western hemisphere.* The Catholics are pushing their campaign on the thesis that South and Central America is a Catholic area and the "proselyting" of Protestants a bad influence on the good neighbor policy. Since the charge of proselyting has been raised, the history of the Roman Catholic Church in the art of proselyting had best be mentioned without comment.

"Desk Admirals"

There is heavy thunder in the air over the broadside recently fired at the Navy Department by Colonel Hugh J. Knerr. The former chief-of-staff of the headquarters air force charged that "desk admirals" in Washington are giving the nation a distorted picture of naval activity in order to protect their blunders from public gaze. Speaking in the *American Mercury*, the colonel continued, "The men in the Navy are fighting heroically for victory but the 'desk admirals' in Washington are fighting a desperate rearguard action for prestige and control—a battle which at best is short-sighted and at worst may be delaying our triumph. The Navy command, flanked by platoons of alleged public relations experts, is constantly conveying a false and exaggerated impression of naval activity. The picture of crucial events is being distorted and touched up to save face over the discrediting of the battleship."

THE BIG URGE now is to modernize the Navy by increasing its airpower arm and to free the air arm for more significant and effective service. This is hard to do because air-minded navy men have odds against them: Admiral King, at the top, is an aviator, but Admirals Hart, Stark and Nimitz are not. Vice Admirals Halsey and Hoover are aviators, but nine other vice admirals are not. Of 104 rear admirals, 15 are aviators and 89 are not.

Speed

Things are moving fast these days—an American shipbuilder reported to the government that a ship he built was constructed, launched, loaded with war materials—and sunk by a Nazi submarine, all in ninety days.

Looking into the Future . . .

The dreadful ninety days we spoke of some time ago will soon come to a close. As we said then, what is happening these days will have an immeasurable effect on all of our lives. *If the Russian resistance crumbles and England and America fail to capitalize on Russian resistance while it is still effective—which so far they have failed to do—we must prepare for the worst.* We will have let pass the opportunity to get the war under control and end it with reasonable certainty within reasonable limits. No layman stands able to judge the technical issues of the Second Front, but any intelligent layman can judge the effect on history's trends when some great opportunity is muffed no matter for what reason.

The Russians may yet dig in and consolidate the eastern front. We still believe that Hitler will never be able to destroy the Russian striking power and as long as he can't do that, every victory brings him nearer to inevitable defeat.

The greatest danger is the threat of a negotiated peace between Hitler and Stalin. It is against the rules even to speak of such a thing now in the press or over the air, but rules or no rules, the history of the past ten years proves that a negotiated peace *could* happen . . . and will happen if the Russians become convinced that they have been deceived by British and American promises and sacrificed by British and American failures. Seldom reported in America is the fact that Stalin has said many times to the Russian people that they are not fighting for the capitalistic nations. Although kept from the American public, such remarks are commonly reported and discussed among Soviet officials and Communists in America.

If Stalin becomes convinced that he cannot defeat the Germans and is not going to receive sufficient assistance from his allies to save the Soviet, he will be open to some of the many propositions Hitler has always had up his sleeve for Russia, such as the division of the resources of India, etc.

It is openly understood in Washington that the United Nations' conferences with Stalin have been to keep him convinced that his allies are doing all in their power to help. This also connects up with the brighter side of the picture one finds current among official circles in Washington—that there is really something "cooking" in the United Nations' pot . . . that a completing of plans is now under way for a tremendous offensive stroke against the Axis.

No Christian worthy of the name can live through such days without being made aware of the utter failure of man to manage his own world. No president or prime minister, fuehrer or emperor can pull this world together again now. It is out of their hands and in the hands of God; it is God's plans that count for the most now. What a change in the psychology of the United Nations there would be if a great commission of spiritual leaders was officially called in London or Washington for days of meditation and prayer to seek a clearer vision of God's plans for tomorrow's world, the results of these meditations to be given precedence over the pressure of financial groups, labor lobbies and the shameful political horse trading that has generally characterized so much of our officialdom. Only as such considerations play a more prominent part in our national scene have we the right to claim that we are a Christian nation and are "fighting the battle of the Lord".

Things the Citizen Does Not Know

Here is a paragraph to ponder: The average citizen has not been informed of the fact that *big business has already won its part of the war.* Theoretically, capitalism is a system which permits any man to enter any business he wants to pursue. It has been a generation or two, however, since a man could go into the steel business, aluminum or chemical trades. These products have been in the control of organized corporations which have successfully barred competition.

Before the war, legislation and sincere efforts to enforce the anti-trust laws failed to check the growing power of these monopolies. Then, as the war came on, the monopolies tried to resist pressure to force them, first, to expand their own production capacities (which they feared would later lower their profits by the fact that more abundant production would mean cheaper prices), second, to permit others to enter the field to meet the war-inspired demand for production.

As every well informed citizen knows, this was the situation that caused the federal government to bring suit under the direction of Thurman Arnold to break these monopolies and cartels. The government succeeded in its action sufficiently to meet production needs by breaking the patent strangle-holds and cartels that had tied up the country's resources. But Mr. Arnold did not intend just to loosen these monopolistic ties sufficiently to meet the needs of war production, he meant *to break them entirely and permanently* believing this would enable the country to bring in a new era of abundance and save capitalism. He said so recently in remarkable articles which appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* and elsewhere. Now it has been discovered that, *although the facts have been generally suppressed,* he has been stopped in his tracks in his plan really to end the strangula-

(Continued on next page)

Christianity Against the Nazis

Where the Nazis have ordered curtailment of religious liberties in occupied France, a marked rise in non-cooperation has been strongly in evidence,—small, almost innocuous incidents but still, in the end, actions that make life much harder for the occupation forces. A group of German high officers had no sleep for a number of nights because of outbreaks of noise near their quarters; singing, catfights, street quarrels, a noisy rattling cart with a hilarious driver, a hundred common things in sequence. The irate officers, leaning out of their windows gave scolding commands to sentries . . . but could sentries stop a catfight in the block, or quarreling voices that moved mysteriously from apartment to apartment?

According to the Religious News Service, effective underground religious literature **circulates in mimeographed form** among both Catholic and Protestant groups, showing a strong awareness of the spiritual peril of the country, whether occupied or unoccupied, under Nazi domination, and pointing out the place of religion in combating it both secretly and openly.

The Nazis have often tried to upset religious parades (the bearing of saints' relics through the streets, etc.) by having marching squads of German troops intercept the parades, not organized clashes—just rude military interruptions. The priests have more than held their own in these instances. When the soldiers come strutting into a street, the religious marchers have not stood humbly aside in awe of the troops, they have vanished to some other prearranged place to resume their parade, leaving the goose-steppers to tramp about in an empty street.

Excuse Not Valid

When the British lost Libya they reported that some of the failure was due to the inferior quality of the American tanks with which they had been supplied. The controversy over the report which has been going on behind the scenes was ended when it was firmly established that American tanks excelled in performance and, as Major General Campbell claimed, "far and away outranged anything the Germans had."

Warsaw's "Black Hole"

Word has reached New York through reliable sources from the "black hole of Warsaw", as the Nazi-imposed ghetto

Things the Citizen Does Not Know

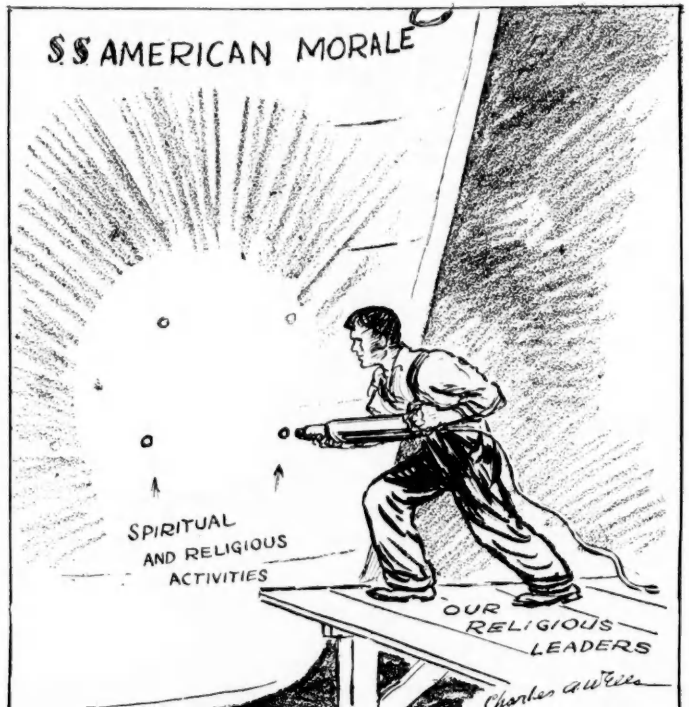
(Continued from first page)

tion of abundance by corporation monopoly. Great pressure has been brought to force Mr. Arnold to drop these suits and suspend action against the monopolies. The power with which the big corporations could say to our war production chiefs, "Drop those monopoly prosecutions or we won't cooperate with you on this all out emergency" is beyond the average citizen's imagination.

An explanation of the corporations is that they could not take time from war production to send their officials to answer charges. We reported on this to you in the May 25th issue of *Between the Lines* at the beginning of this development.

All this is not any one person's opinion—these are facts which you can verify very easily in Washington. The average citizen has been deluged with propaganda in the newspapers and news weeklies; full page ads and articles appear to blind him to the real issues, telling him it is all a silly mistake. The true facts are that the federal charges against corporations were substantiated in court, and in many instances heavy fines were paid both by officials personally and corporations individually.

After paying the fines in these initial charges which Thurman Arnold intended later to expand into a more complete economic reform, the corporations did two things: They brought pressure to stop the expansion of the monopoly-reform and went to the public with news and advertising to create a smoke screen around their guilt. Always remember, when you read corporation news and advertisements, that all the big news services and big news weekies—*Time, Life, Newsweek, U. S. News*, etc.—are owned and controlled by the big financial and industrial corporations. For instance, *Time* was founded by Morgan Banking money loaned by Henry P. Davison, a Morgan partner whose name appeared for a long time on its ownership statement. *Newsweek* is owned by a group of Wall Street Corporations, A. K. Lockett (Morgan and Company), Harriman, Brown Bros., etc., and *U. S. News* is published by David Lawrence, for a long time a big business spokesman in Washington who has many connections in Wall Street.



Pearl Harbor Attack a Surprise to Average Japanese

Newsmen returning from Asia, who were in Japan at the time of the outbreak of war and whose dispatches have heretofore been severely censored, report that:

1. Japan was plunged into war with the United States without the knowledge or consent of the people and by a virtual revolt of the military extremists who had swept out all remnants of civilian control.

2. These extremists gained their final consolidation of power to act by the threat of mass assassination of *all* moderate statesmen.

3. There were veiled hints that if the Emperor opposed the war plans he would be immured as spiritual head of the nation only in the old Niji palace of Kyoto as were the Japanese emperors before the Meiji restoration.

4. It is agreed among correspondents who were in Japan that the strike against Pearl Harbor was done without the knowledge of Admiral Nomura, Japanese Ambassador to Washington. (Newsmen in Washington have felt this was true, although they believe that Kurusu, special emissary from Tokyo, did know.)

5. It is also believed that several of even the most important Japanese cabinet members were taken entirely by surprise by the Pearl Harbor attack.

6. The people of Japan everywhere appeared shocked and stunned by the news and continued so until the din of propaganda concerning Japanese victories began to turn the tide of their emotions.

7. Thousands of Japanese liberals and intellectuals were crowded into prison as soon as the war began. Many of them were Christians and students from Japanese Christian universities. Most of them are still in prison.

8. The Japanese Christians and Church are compelled either to endorse the war program or remain absolutely silent on all political and national questions. The nationalization of the Christian churches of Japan during the preceding year thoroughly prepared the way for this absolute control of the spiritual forces of Japan.

As these reports run somewhat contrary to our official war propaganda line, they have received very limited publicity.

Vansittartism

We have our Lord Robert Vansittarts,

Word has reached New York through reliable sources from the "black hole of Warsaw", as the Nazi-imposed ghetto there is called. Leaving aside the familiar tales of Nazi cruelty, which are in general confirmed, certain new facts are now at hand. There has been a severe epidemic of spotted fever, causing deaths at such a rate that on some occasions it has been impossible to bury the victims with sufficient speed. Yet the population level is maintained because of the Jews newly rounded up in the march of the Reich and dumped into this place of horror.

With what strength they can muster most of the Jews remain firm in their inward opposition to what the Nazis stand for. Some of the wealthier ones, who in unexplained ways have managed to retain their funds, take advantage of the black market, in which the regular price of butter (60 zloty) jumps to 200—the average wage for a Jew is one zloty a day. Leave can be bought, but those who do not return bring down vengeance on their families. Overcrowding is so bad one order commanded that at least four persons must live in every one-windowed room.

Non-Jews are punished if caught near the surrounding walls, yet on many an early morning the mercifully-inclined among them find ways of tossing over the walls medicines and foodstuffs to relieve the suffering of those inside.

Women M. D.'s

One of the most short-sighted and unintelligent traditions in modern life has been the attitude of the medical profession toward women doctors and women who want to enter the profession of healing. Medical schools and medical professors have made it their practice to try to "break" the girl who dares to enter the field of medicine. Only the tough could survive and there have been few who were tough enough.

The war is changing all that . . . the war, and the experience of Russia. For twenty years, ever since the Revolution, Russia has welcomed girls into the medical profession. As a result, many of Russia's most able surgeons and medical scientists have been women. This is proving to be an unexpected boon in war. The women are used to staff base hospitals and civilian clinics, freeing male doctors for the more trying field work.

America is facing a real crisis in health and medicine. Whole communities are being stripped of doctors with no one to take their places. Many of our Army units are dangerously understaffed with medical officers. If women had been given the chance they merited, the situation would have been different. The American Medical Association is aware of this and is quietly planning to open the doors more widely to women.

PUTTING IN THE RIVETS

We have so emphasized the importance of rubber, steel, aluminum and other physical defense materials in war that we forget how useless all these materials would be were they not forged together by some high and noble purpose. France taught us that a nation must have these spiritual qualities or it will fall apart under pressure, no matter how great its armed forces. This power that endows a nation with spiritual unity and high purpose cannot be created by blast furnaces or machinery. It is being put into our lives by the spiritual forces of our nation, through the great religious organizations of America, in every community, in every training camp, at every fleet base. Religion is an all-important ingredient in national life, just as it is an all-important ingredient in personal life.

"The Churchill System"

We are, of course working for a victory of the United Nations which includes an English victory, but what the average American does not hear is that there are tremendous political currents sweeping through the tides of English life over what this coming victory will bring to the English people. Will it make the rich, richer and the poor, poorer? Since American news channels are almost entirely closed to the views of the English working man who, you must remember, makes up 95 per cent of England, we want to report to you that British Labor, its spokesman, Harold Laski, protests vehemently the "Churchill system" of promising "anything which may be necessary to achieve victory, but accompanying that promise with assurance to the main beneficiaries of the old order that their privileges shall remain untouched, when the very essence of the conflict is the status of those privileges." Mr. Laski claims that the settlement of important industrial problems is being postponed—a technique which avoids definite social progress—and that, generally speaking, the reactionary, historic governing class of England is in full directive control of the war effort.

This protest from Britain which appeared in the *New Statesman and Nation*, was generally suppressed in England and, after the storm arose, was quite thoroughly squelched here.

An Indian Speaks on India

We have often informed you that the Indian side of the British-India crisis is not being permitted to reach the American public. Through the uncensored *Worldover Press* service, we are here providing our readers with a condensed statement of a report made by one of the world's most respected Indian authorities, Mr. Anup Singh, who has taught and lectured extensively in America. Mr. Singh is the author of many important books on Indian affairs and the British imperialists have been fair-minded enough to regard Mr. Singh as a well-informed, conservative judge on Indian problems.

Since the American press is being obliged to cooperate with British censorship in Indian matters, we feel it is our duty as a Christian information service to bring this article to you.

Mr. Singh states that: "India is the strategic spot from which men and materials have been going to all Eastern theaters of the war. It is the East's arsenal of supplies. In this India we may soon witness mass demonstrations, crowded jails, broken skulls, turmoil. The gravity of the situation cannot be overemphasized. Gandhi has demanded immediate withdrawal of British rule. Should Britain refuse to yield, Gandhi will let loose mass civil disobedience. What has driven Gandhi to this desperate step? Americans must strive sympathetically and imaginatively to get at the root of the matter before assailing Gandhi and his followers.

"For over twenty years before this war Gandhi has been striving for India's freedom through peaceful means. *In capturing eight out of the eleven provinces in British India in an open election in* 1937, under the British-made constitution, the Nationalists vindicated their claim to represent the masses. Their organization, the India National Congress, is a national (*Continued on last page*)

Vansittartism

We have our Lord Robert Vansittarts, as the British have, who fancy Germans are all alike and equally unregenerate. But the bitter lord's critics have at last reminded him that before the war he was dined by Nazis in Berlin, and found them, then, excellent fellows. Perhaps if he had met more of the other kind of German he would feel differently. All those who argue as he does prove self-contradictory. They contend all Germans are alike, *then cite the Nazi executions of other Germans by the score, and the exile and persecution of thousands for anti-Nazi activities.—Worldover Press.*

French Labor Not Collaborators

The French trade unions, comprising the vast majority of French workingmen, have shown not the slightest disposition to help the Nazis in any way. Two or three minor officials, the only ones who have agreed to collaborate with the enemies of mankind, dare not go into the factories unless escorted by strong German guards.

Children Fill Ranks of German Labor

All German children leaving school—most of them about fourteen years old—are forced to register with the labor exchange immediately. They are not allowed to choose future professions, but must await the decision of German authorities, who use them to fill the gap in the labor market caused by the withdrawal of German workers for army service.

Dividends

When the Czech government went into exile in England, its funds, deposited in Great Britain, were, according to the British, earmarked for aid to the people of Czechoslovakia. Sources in England report, however, that these funds are being used to pay dividends to British investors in the Skoda works—a munitions factory which now works twenty-four hours a day turning out arms for the Nazis.

Prophesy

Did someone say we were radical for talking about the inevitable end of British domination in Asia? . . . Maybe so, for we said it last January or February. But a short time ago the London *Times*, the most respected and authentic voice in England, said, "We must now face the cold fact that British rule in the Far East can never be restored. What shall follow we cannot say, but that page of our history has turned."

An Indian Speaks on India

(*Continued from middle page*)

party that has been working for a free and united India for over forty years, and is committed to the safeguarding of all minority rights. Year after year since 1927 Gandhi warned Britain that India would be no party to any future war unless she was first consulted. In utter disregard of India's wishes, Britain declared India belligerent within a few hours of her own declaration of war against Germany.

"Meanwhile, India raised and equipped an army of 2,000,000 Indian soldiers, many of whom have fought and died at Dunkirk, Hong Kong, Singapore and Burma, and are dying by the thousands in Africa today.

"When France fell, Gandhi's colleagues compromised on the issue of non-violence and offered to take up arms, if only they could be made to feel that they were fighting as free men, both for their own country and for the freedom of the world, and not as mercenaries. Instead of real power, they were handed White Papers, and Viceroy's Statements carefully couched in the familiar diplomatic jargon—statements not bold enough to suggest a break with the past. Meanwhile, country after country fell before Hitler. What did Britain do to win India? *Hopes aroused by the Atlantic Charter were at once blasted by Churchill, who declared that its terms did not apply to India.* Midst this disillusionment, bitterness and hostility, Cripps hurried to India at the eleventh hour after Singapore had fallen and when the Japanese were rushing headlong westward.

"Then Cripps—and the aftermath. *It is not true as has often been asserted in the American press, that Cripps failed because Indians were unwilling to assume responsibility, or that they could not yet together, or that they wanted to curtail the powers of the Commander-in-Chief. Nationalist India objected to the provisions of the Cripps proposal that would have permitted any unit to stay out of the federal union—a direct encouragement and invitation to civil war. They objected to the provision designed to perpetuate India's autocratic princes through whom Britain had worked to keep India divided.*

"Negotiations finally failed on two other crucial points. The Nationalists wanted to form a Provisional Coalition Government that should function as a responsible National Government from now on. But that meant curtailing the dictatorial powers of the English viceroy, and that Britain refused to do. The Nationalists were willing to give even more power to the Commander-in-Chief, provided, as in the Dominions, he was not also Minister of Defense, and provided an Indian was made Minister of Defense with real powers. They wanted an Indian Minister because he alone, as a symbol of the new change, could have aroused the masses and made it a people's war. Here again Britain refused to share military control with India and insisted upon 'protecting India from Indians'.

"It is the aftermath of the Cripps mission that has now forced Gandhi's hand. And it is the recent Japanese move that has left him no choice. The failure of Cripps left behind it a trail of bitterness and frustration in India. The people of India are not pro-Japanese. For years they have denounced Japan's aggression against China. But the unfortunate truth is that the tide of anti-British feeling has recently been running high. Anti-Japanese feeling in India is the by-product of pro-Chinese sympathy, but anti-British feeling is basic. This situation can easily play into the hands of the Japanese. *It was to counteract this that Gandhi seized this moment to arouse his followers to the hope that he would in his own way wrest their freedom from Britain. And he is at the same time exhorting them firmly to resist the Japanese.*

"The Japanese are maneuvering a puppet government for India in connivance with certain exiled Indian revolutionaries who recently met in Assam and were assured of backing by all the Axis partners. In the face of prevailing apathy in India, this dramatic move could easily capture the imagination of many. This would mean chaos in which many would look for guidance and leadership outside of India. Gandhi had to do something equally dramatic to counteract this Japanese move and to hold his followers back from these seemingly alluring bids, (not one word of all of which has been allowed to be published for the American public). Gandhi has done this in his latest move by revitalizing the fight for independence. India and the cause of the United Nations in India are infinitely safer in Gandhi's hands than they would be in other hands.

"What will be the effect of this move? That Gandhi is anxious to avoid a showdown is obvious by his putting off the civil disobedience a month, and even longer if necessary. That India will resist Japanese aggression with all available means, material and moral, after Gandhi's move as she would have done before is equally obvious. But that Gandhi's civil disobedience will in no way jeopardize the war effort, as Gandhi hopes it will not, is difficult to imagine. If he does not act, the apathetic masses might prove an easy prey for Japan, and if he acts, he may hinder India's war effort. There are perils in both courses. He and his colleagues have chosen the one they deem less perilous.

"If Britain resorts to violent repression, it will inevitably ignite the already explosive situation. Whether Gandhi makes good his threat immediately or not, it is true that the hearts of the masses of India are not yet in this war. They can be roused, but only by setting up a Provisional National Government now—not later. The military control of India for psychological reasons should be under a joint board, consisting of an American, an Englishman, a Russian, a Chinese, and an Indian, with a Commander-in-Chief of its own choice.

"America has a great stake in India. She can no longer afford to consider India as Britain's exclusive concern. The war in Asia will never be won without the enthusiastic cooperation of the Asiatics. It will never be won unless those in power realize that 'Freedom is a weapon, not a reward for good behavior.' India's freedom will be worthless if the Axis wins, *but she has yet to be convinced that it is secure and guaranteed if the United Nations win.* China is advocating immediate independence for India. America, by equal daring and imagination, can still help save the present crucial situation."

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